(a) whether Government is aware that procurement of wheat was stopped by the Civil Supplies Corporation and the Food Corporation of India by saying that there was not proper arrangement for storage of wheat in Malwa-Nimarh region and some other areas of Madhya Pradesh where there had been a good production of wheat due to which farmers had to sell wheat at cheaper rates to traders;

(b) if so, the officers responsible for the financial loss suffered by farmers;

(c) the action taken against the guilty officers; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to avoid the reoccurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) FCI has intimated that procurement of wheat was not stopped in the Malwa, Nimarh and other regions of Madhya Pradesh due to inadequate storage capacity or on any other grounds. FCI operated 194 centers for wheat procurement in RMS 2008-2009 in Malwa and Nimarh region of Madhya Pradesh and procured more than 3 lakh MT of wheat.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Rottening of foodgrains in godowns of FCI

†61. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to media reports about rottening of ten lakh tonne foodgrains in godowns;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that atleast Rs. 242 crore have been lost due to the rottening of foodgrains;

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether Government is formulating any scheme to save foodgrains from rottening in the godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI); and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) No foodgrains had got rotten in godowns of FCI due to lack of preservation. However, about 10 lakh tons of damaged foodgrains had been accrued in the account of FCI over a period of last ten years from 1997-2007 and the same has been reflected in the media reports.

The accrual of damaged foodgrains is due to various reasons, such as, cyclones, floods and acceptance of below specifications stocks, Besides, some quantities of foodgrains had also

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

got damaged during transportation to other regions. The quantity damaged works out to 0.139% of the total foodgrains handled by FCI during the last 10 years.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. the Government had formulated the following action plan for proper upkeep and storage of foodgrains in godowns of FCI:

(i) All FCI godowns to be constructed as per specifications and foodgrains stored by adopting scientific storage practices.

(ii) The adequate dunnage materials, fumigation covers and chemicals to be provided in all the godowns.

(iii) Prophylactic and curative treatments to be carried out regularly and timely for the control of stored grain insect pests.

(iv) Foodgrains in 'Cover and Plinth' (CAP) storage to be stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates used as dunnage material. Stacks should be properly covered with specifically fabricated low-density black polythene water proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.

(v) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are to be undertaken by qualified and trained staff of FCI.

(vi) The principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO) is to be adopted to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.

(vii) Only covered wagons are to be used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damages during transit.

Quality and prices of consumer goods at State-owned co-operative stores

62. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that quality and prices of consumer goods at State-owned co-operative stores and Mother Dairy are not offering much competition to multinationals and big enterprises retail business;

(b) if so, whether State co-operative stores and Mother Dairy will close down like Super Bazar; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve quality and prices to make them more competitive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) Some State owned cooperatives and other organizations like Mother Dairy have been operating in certain specific market segments. They have also been able to develop their own brand equity in this segment and to this extent are able to give competition to Multi National Companies. These cooperatives serve as aggregators to primary cooperatives and offer good services to their customers. So long as they keep doing this efficiently, there is no question of their closing down.